REMARKS- General

To aid the examiner in consideration of the priority date for the amended claims, reference is made to the specification of the provisional application(60/036,305), filed January 29,1997. The provisional application describes a text presentation method and apparatus that meets the limitations of independent claims 36, 68, and 69.

Applicant would like to draw particular attention to the following portions of the provisional application, that disclose the limitations of the amended independent claims and dependent claims 37, 38, 46, 47, 48, 49, 55, 60, 61, and 64.

p. 10 line 26 – p. 11 line 14
References. The invention provides a novel user interface to specify the way in which specific information is to be looked up in reference works and displayed in association with the display of a text. This user interface permits the user to specify unique attributes associated with occurrences of a word in the reference and the text document which triggers display of further information from the reference work, and the description of which associated information from the reference work should be returned. The interface which permits the user to select from a pull-down menu of multiple possible parameters for adjustment, followed by display of the selected parameters and ability to adjust each of those parameters through access to another pulldown menu associated with each of them is also a unique feature of this invention.

p. 13, lines 9-14
Reverse-indexing/searching. The invention provides a novel user interface to describe the existence of material potentially related to a region of text based on its presence in an author-defined index (an outline), and to provide a user with the capability to immediately access that related material.

p. 44 line 26 – p. 47 line 22
The "Reference" parameter provides the user with access to material which has been looked up in one or more reference works. The "Reference parameter" includes the following parameters: "Select Reference works", "Input", "Lookup mode", and "Display". These parameters may be changed from the reference lookup dialog box displayed in FIG. 6.
"Select Reference works" permits the user to provide the program the names and locations of files containing reference works to be accessed by the program. Such files may include dictionaries, thesauruses, encyclopedias, casebooks, treatises, or any other text. Such files may either be resident on the user's computer, or may be accessible through computer networks or the Internet. In the special case of references associated with a schema "wordlist" defined by the user using the "Preread" parameter, this information may already have been provided, and is already preset to the appropriate wordlist.
The "Input" parameter permits the user to designate which material in the "Text" block will be looked up in the designated references. Choices include "Wordlist" (permitting the user to designate one or more wordlists, which will trigger looking up words in the reference work(s) whenever a word in the wordlist(s) are encountered in the text), "Part of speech" (which causes words of a selected part of speech, e.g., nouns, verbs to be looked up in the reference work(s)), "Type" (which provides access to a dialog box permitting the user to type a word or phrase to be looked up in the reference work) and "Select" (which causes words selected by the user while reading the text, using

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a point-and-click device to be looked up). For example, the word "elector" as displayed in FIGS. 10 and 13 was looked up in a dictionary using this feature. The input parameter further provides the option of specifying additional information about how to identify words from the text for lookup, and of defining which occurrences should trigger a lookup.

"Lookup Mode" permits the user to designate how material to be looked up in the reference is to be identified in the reference. For example, in dictionaries, the primary definition of a word is normally indicated by the presence of the word as the first word on a line, and the indentation, line spacing (directly prior to the word), font, size or style of the word may be different from other words on the page. In a preferred embodiment, this program will contain predefined lookup modes, including but not limited to styles which identify primary words in dictionaries, encyclopedias, thesauruses and casebooks. In addition, the user has the option of defining a lookup mode, either through a series of menus (as illustrated by FIG. 6) or as a grammar defining a context in which a word or words must be found in order to trigger a match and display of the appropriate material as a "Reference" link.

"Display" permits the user to designate which material from the reference will be displayed. This may simply be several lines of text surrounding the looked up material, or may be defined as an entire definition or article. If the program is instructed to return a link to the appropriate section of the reference work (as in the example illustrated by FIG. 6), the user may access the original page of the reference work by simple mouse action on the displayed material from the reference work.

The means by which the program handles references permits the user access to a broad variety of references, rather than merely references specifically designed to work with the program. For example, display of reference links in this fashion will permit the user to access pictorial dictionaries, which include pictures (e.g., representations, illustrations of sign language, animated sequences of a person mouthing the word) that correspond to the words of text that he is reading. The "Preread" feature may be used to select words for inclusion of such pictures based on the reader's vocabulary level or the number of times the word appears in the text. The ability to include such pictures based on their part of speech will also be valuable to readers who wish to concentrate on learning only certain types of words. Among other benefits, such pictures serve as an aid to memory --either directly or subliminally-- and may be valuable for individuals learning a foreign language or with reading disabilities. The use of pictorial links in this manner (and/or the use of verbal highlighting described below), will not slow down the reader's reading speed, and will only serve to increase comprehension and retention.

p. 70 lines 14- p. 71 line 9.

By selecting the "Reverse Index" parameter, elements related to selected text displayed in a block, or selected portions of an outline displayed in a block, are searched for words which are present in the document's author-defined index. If no region is selected, the search comprises a range of words around the current position in the document predefined by the user. The results of this search are displayed on the outline, or in the document. For use of reverse indexing, it is useful to set up a separate outline block which contains only the results of reverse indexing, which can be set to scroll forward automatically as the user reads through a text. From such a block, the user may directly access other related materials by simple mouse action. This feature aids the reader in finding related material which is interspersed throughout the text, while taking advantage of the fact that the author has already made a judgment regarding its relevance. The "Reverse Index parameter" may be left "on" while reading a text, thus, perpetually updating information in the associated outline block regarding the existence of links to other material in the text through the index as the reader progresses through the text.

p. 100 lines 11-17 (draft claim 80)

80.   The invention of claim 71, further comprising the property that the operation referred to is reverse indexing, defined as providing information regarding or access to other locations in the document which have an index entry (in some other index) in common with a location in the document specified by a location on the improved index.

Figure 2, including its description

FIG. 2 is a flow diagram depicting the overall operation of the invention. While the invention can be practiced in a manner different from that depicted in the flow diagram, the flow diagram provides a useful overview for understanding the invention.

The invention involves, among other things, the use of a computer system, such as depicted in FIG. 1, to display electronic text stored in the computer system or stored external to the computer system. As shown in FIG. 2, the invention comprises the steps of collecting parameter input from the user (202); using the computer system to convert an electronic text to be presented in accordance with the parameter values selected (208); and using the computer system to display the text in accordance with the parameter values selected (210). In addition, after collection of parameter input (202), the computer system may extract information from an electronic text (212) and display that information for the user (214).

"Parameter input", as used elsewhere in this description, is defined as the process of obtaining information regarding desired parameters from the user (202). This may be accomplished via dialog boxes, tool bars, use of predefined keystrokes, collection of audio, video, or other electronically codable input from the user for the purpose of assigning values to parameters related to this invention. In a preferred embodiment, the computer system is equipped with WindowsTM software and suitable display and point-and-click mouse devices well known in the art to enable a user to signal the computer system using the point-and-click mouse device.

The step of parameter input (202) in FIG. 2 preferably may be accomplished by use of a point-and-click device, such as a mouse, or an appropriate predefined or user-defined shortcut key or keys, or a combination thereof. In a preferred embodiment, the computer display changes immediately in response to the user's adjustment of any given parameter value, thereby providing instant feedback.

Figure 6, including its description.

FIG. 6 illustrates a reference lookup dialog box. In each case, clicking on the shaded area immediately to the right of a parameter accesses a pulldown menu of options, from which one or more additional parameters may be selected (including, where relevant, the option of typing in a value). In cases where the additional parameters may have several different values, an additional shaded area is provided to the right, which enables the user to assign values for those parameters from a separate pulldown menu corresponding to each chosen parameter. In the case illustrated by FIG. 6, the example dialog box specifies that words in the text which are also present in the predefined wordlist named "listname" are to be looked up in "Webster's dictionary." Any punctuation associated with the word in the text is to be ignored. The lookup mode parameter specifies that keywords in "Webster's dictionary" are found left justified, bolded, and in the first position in one of two columns on each page. Thus, clicking on any item in the shaded area immediately to the right of the term "Lookup mode" provides access to a pulldown menu, from which one or more parameters may be selected, causing its (or their) inclusion in the list displayed on the left (in this case, "Indentation", "Style", "Position on line" and "Columns" were selected from a pulldown menu containing these and other options). The value assigned to each of those parameters is displayed directly to its right, and may be changed by access to a second pulldown menu by clicking directly on each value (in this case, "Left justified", "Bold", "First word", or "2"). In attempting to look up words in "listname", the computer is to ignore punctuation in the text, and hyphens in "Webster's dictionary". The computer is instructed to return the first line of the definition, and a link by which additional material from the definition may be obtained by double-

clicking on the line. In this case the reference lookup was specified using menu options, by clicking on the button labeled "Menu", it is also possible to specify reference lookup using a grammar or by loading preset lookup information (provided by the manufacturer) for commonly used reference works (or alternatively, for reference works specifically designed to work with the invention).

The following examples demonstrate disclosures in the provisional application that meet the limitations of the cited claims (see annotations in bold):

36. A method for using a computer system, in response to a reader's request for display of electronic text, to automatically identify and provide additional reading material related to concepts referred to within said electronic text comprising, in sequence, the steps of:

a) accessing, using the reader's computer, electronic text requested for display by the reader, said electronic text containing at least one text section;

This limitation is taught by the entire provisional application, which refers to a method of displaying electronic text to a reader, and by Figure 2, steps 208, and 212.

b) using said at least one text section to automatically formulate, on the reader's computer, a search request related to a concept referred to in said at least one text section;

This limitation is taught in the description of the input parameter on pages 10-11 and 45, such that encountering words in a wordlist causes them to be automatically looked up in a reference work; and in the description of the reverse indexing parameter described on pages 13, 70, and 100, such that text referred to in an index causes automatic lookup of other locations referred to by the same index entry.

c) responsive to said search request, automatically searching an index, wherein

This limitation is taught by the description of reverse-indexing on pages 13, 70, and 100.

i) said index contains a plurality of terms by which it may be searched;

ii) substantially all terms in said index are associated with at least one pointer to a text section; and

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iii) at least one term in said index is associated with a plurality of
pointers, at least two of said plurality of pointers pointing to different
text sections;

**These limitations are inherent features of the author's index
utilized for reverse-indexing, as described on pages 13 and 70,
and the index of draft claim 80 on page 100.**

d) responsive to step (c), automatically identifying additional reading
material related to said concept; and

**This limitation is disclosed by the description of reverse-indexing on
pages 70-71, and by the description of automatic look-up in
reference works on pages 10-11, 44-47.**

e) automatically displaying on said reader's computer display, an indicator
of said additional reading material together with at least one link to a
source of said additional reading material, side-by-side with a portion of
the electronic text referred to in step (a).

**The indicator of additional reading material is disclosed in the
description of the display parameter (p. 46) and in the description of
reverse indexing (pp. 70-71. The link to additional reading material is
disclosed on pages 46, line 23 and on page 71, line 7. The
presentation of additional material, side by side, is disclosed in
Figure 10, where the definition of "elector" is presented alongside
the text, and on page 70 (presentation on an outline block containing
only the results of reverse indexing).**

37. The method of claim 36, wherein said additional reading material of step d is
accessible over a network.
**This limitation is disclosed on p. 45, lines 4-7 ("Such files may either be
resident on the user's computer, or may be accessible through computer
networks or the internet.")**

38. The method of claim 37, wherein said network is the internet.
**This limitation is disclosed on p. 45, lines 4-7 ("Such files may either be
resident on the user's computer, or may be accessible through computer
networks or the internet.")**

46. The method of claim 36, wherein the method of formulating said search
request comprises identifying an index entry referring to said text section.
**This limitation is disclosed by the description of reverse indexing as
described on pages 13 and 70-71, and draft claim 80 on page 100.**

47. The method of claim 36, wherein said search request is contained in a list of potential search terms.
This limitation is disclosed on page 45, lines 13-17 ("Choices include "Wordlist" (permitting the user to designate one or more wordlists, which will trigger looking up words in the reference work(s) whenever a word in the wordlist(s) are encountered in the text), . .").

48. The method of claim 36, wherein said search request comprises words within said text section of step (a).
This limitation is disclosed on page 45, lines 13-17 ("Choices include "Wordlist" (permitting the user to designate one or more wordlists, which will trigger looking up words in the reference work(s) whenever a word in the wordlist(s) are encountered in the text), . .") and on page 70, lines 18-20 ("If no region is selected, the search comprises a range of words around the current position in the document predefined by the user.")

49. The method of claim 36, wherein said search request comprises a plurality of words.
This limitation is disclosed on page 70, lines 18-19 (". . . the search comprises a range of words . . .").

55. The method of claim 36, wherein said index is an author's index to said requested text.
This limitation is disclosed by the description of reverse indexing as described on pages 13 and 70-71.

60. The method of claim 36, wherein said indicator of additional reading material is an excerpt of said additional reading material.
This limitation is disclosed on page 46, lines 20-21 (This may simply be several lines of text surrounding the looked up material. . .).

61. The method of claim 36, wherein the indicator of additional reading material is an index term.
This limitation is disclosed by the description of reverse indexing as described on pages 13 and 70-71.

64. The method of claim 36, wherein said indicator of additional reading material is displayed on an outline of at least one text.
This limitation is disclosed on page 70, lines 20-21 (The results of this search are displayed on the outline. . .).
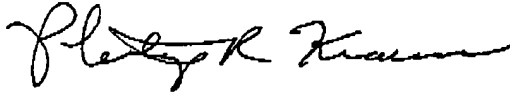
Conclusion

The applicant submits that the amended claims, enabled by the provisional application of 1/29/1997 and the specification of 3/14/2000 are proper, definite, and define novel structure which is also unobvious. The applicant further

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submits that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action he
respectfully solicits.

Very Respectfully,

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